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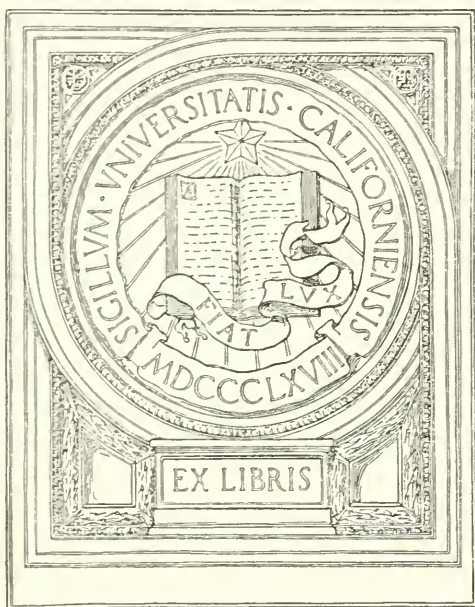


The Experiences and Opinions of
George Washington from Spirit Life.

By

Mrs. M. J. Upham Hendee

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



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THE
EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS
OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
FROM
SPIRIT LIFE.

SAN FRANCISCO:

1878.

L. Miller

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EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS
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INTRODUCTION.

The main contents of this pamphlet were written by Washington, in 1868, using the mediumship of Mrs. M. J. Upham Hendee.

The preface was written by my request, in May, 1878.

It is my mission to give it to the world. Like its author it needs no introduction. Every page bears the impress of him, who in earth-life, was noted for truthfulness.

It comes in good time as a message of love-teaching of the spirit, and a spirit-world as tangible realities, and a God of love everywhere.

T. B. CLARKE.

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Communication received May 25th, 1878.

My dear friend of earth, how gladly do I come to-day, and hope I may impart glorious truths which I have been permitted to learn in my spirit-home.

Oh! how earnestly do we from our home of light, yearn to impress you with these divine blessings, for we know it will be a great comfort in your earthly homes to learn that earth is not all, but another is prepared for you wherein you will live and enjoy the felicity and companionship of loved ones who have passed from you to an unknown and silent world, and to be assured that they are living and enjoying the privileges and happiness of homes with all surrounding blessing. Yes, dear friends, it speaks to the souls of every living being, and lifts them above darkness and doubt—taking away the sting of death—weaving it with a far more glorious life beyond.

My great desire is to arouse men's minds to grow into a beautiful, trusting love, that the Creator doeth all things well. Every spirit who comes to this blessed world, is astonished as they awake to the wondrous beauty of this new-found home; and you may conceive what is their astonishment after the teachings of the past.

But, thank God for this blessing in the awakening of your world to-day, through the ministrations of his angels who have opened the door for mortals, and united them through magnetic currents to blend souls between the two worlds. To us it is a joyous achievement, for we know of what we speak, when we shall succeed in the full meaning of our mission in giving a new life to millions now in darkness and fear; and you need not wonder that angels, who have risen out of this condition, should move heaven and earth to give unto man a true knowledge of existence.

It seems to me that this truth once established would arouse the hearts of men to renewed life on earth—cause them to feel that there was something grand to live for besides the mortal which is so evanescent and fleeting in comparison with an eternal home, ever growing brighter by unfolding intelligences reaching out toward the divine, and would cause the old, worn-out garments of theology to be cast off as cumbersome and unclean.

Life is eternal, and its joys and blessings await you all, and though you see them not, it will be proven a reality.

The two worlds are shaking hands, and soon man will walk in the image of his Maker, blending the soul-world with the mortal. We know that you cannot see us; yet we are with you in love and truth, and happy to see so much interest awakened toward us.

As this will be the last opportunity to write before my experiences are given to the world, I wish to say that it is a truthful account, though only one of thousands yet to be given to the loved ones of earth. May God bless you for this privilege which has been a blessing that we might give another from our beautiful home in the spirit-land.

Yours fraternally,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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PREFACE.

My dear earth-friends, feeling a deep interest in humanity, I endeavored ten years ago to open the portals of life to those yet veiled in uncertainty concerning their future, by giving my experience in the transition to and in the realms of spirit-life. I then little thought my message would lie unrecognized so long. I trust higher intelligences have overruled for greater good.

On awakening to these heavenly spheres, I found them in all their associations so unlike what I had been taught, that I could only feel amazed, and wonder at their marvelous beauty. I seemed spell-bound with joy at realizing that I still retained my individuality, and a life so real that were it not I saw so many loved ones who had passed on before, giving me such blessed congratulations and welcome, I should have felt myself still a resident of earth.

I resolved that if it were possible to open communication with earth, I would devote my powers to that end, and have made every effort to the consummation of the truth of angel ministrations.

Many have been working to open a channel of communication, often coming to earth to strengthen the power, forming magnetic and electric currents whereby we could connect earth and heaven, and thus give proof to mortals of our identity as living beings who once were mortals, and yet retained their selfhood. Many efforts were made, before we gained recognition, but when the glad news that an interchange of intelligent communication between the two worlds had been recognized, the joyful song rang through the vaults of heaven, chanted by thousands eager to grasp the loving hands or catch the whispering sound or tiny raps which should bring the dead to life, and open the gates of heaven to all.

After many efforts, I succeeded in gaining strength to control this medium to convey my experiences and wishes to those in earth-life, uncertain of their future destiny.

Too long have the false teachings of an angry God and an eternal hell consumed the best thoughts of humanity, cramped the divine soul, unfitting it either for the earth or spirit-life.

Thousands, to-day, choose darkness and uncertainty, blinding their eyes from the glories of heaven, through fear of an impending doom pronounced by wicked teachers of dark traditional theology, which has misconstrued God into a demon instead of a loving Father.

But those terrible dark and wicked teachings are passing, and the teachers are now wondering in bewilderment of their delusions, ignorance and superstitions in view of the higher knowledge of right, justice and truth coming from millions of ministering angels in all lands and tongues.

The time is not far distant, when new openings will be made which will reveal more fully the truth of this home of light and joy to mortal sight; for heaven and earth are now working in unison for its completion.

I must now bless you for giving to the world this faint description of our blessed home, hoping it may find favor with all honest, earnest seekers after truth; and close with my fraternal blessing,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

SECTION FIRST.

Friends of earth-life, in coming here to bear my testimony with the hosts of spirit friends, regarding our spiritual home and its natural earth-life condition, gives me great pleasure to be enabled to impart a knowledge of the experiences of one whom you have known as a resident upon your earthly sphere.

Having passed the change called death, I still find myself a living, intelligent being, actually alive to all scenes incident to earth-life, yet comprehending a fuller and happier condition; finding there is no death but the beautiful change called death, to be but the birth of the soul into realms of spiritual unfoldments; where like children born into earth-life, we feel the weakness and strangeness of our situation, not comprehending the wonderful change that has come over us; but being guided and strengthened by our loved ones, who meet us at the gateway to welcome us, yielding, trustingly, lovingly to their protection; becoming strengthened, we learn to adapt ourselves to the conditions surrounding us; thus we gradually become awakened and strengthened, until every fibre of the soul is pulsating with new and wonderful emotions, thrilling with joy to learn that we can still communicate with mortals, and impress them with our presence, and that we still can assist and guide them by our influence and teachings, urging them to honesty and truthfulness here, as passports to a higher and more useful life. I therefore give you my experience of having been ushered into a new and to me incomprehensible state of existence, so unlike my idea of heaven as described to my earthly vision, that you will not be surprised at my astonishment.

My first awakening into spirit-life was like awakening out of sleep on a bright and lovely morning in June, when the freshness of flowers and the music of birds atune all nature to harmony. I could not understand where I was. I was filled with awe at the appearance and grandeur of the wonderful sublime surroundings. While beholding these things, I seemed to recall the past—to realize that I had passed from earth and must now be in heaven. Can this be, I said to myself; and yet everything is as natural as in earth-life. How strange, how wonderful everything seemed, so like earth that I seem to doubt my senses, and yet I know that I must have changed—must have left the form—for I perceived that I had not the same material

body; and remembered also the dear friends weeping over me, bidding me farewell; and said surely this is heaven for which I had so often prayed. But it is not so great a change, for everything is so real and life-like, that I shall be able to comprehend its locality and sphere, and its distance from earth—for it is no longer a visionary heaven, but a real local place. While these strange thoughts were passing through my mind, I seemed to be in a kind of pleasing dream; partly asleep and partly awake. While thus wondering as to my condition, a sweet, bright vision of glorified spirits seemed to approach and arouse me to a greater fullness of my condition and surroundings. One beautiful, bright spirit came out from the number, and extending her arms, cried: "George, my son, you have come to me, and a mother's arms can again embrace you—can watch over you. You have passed beyond the earthly plane, and are now in spirit spheres. My dear devoted mother, how beautiful she seemed; as natural and real as when in the earth-form. The vision opened, and I beheld many dear earth friends, coming near to me; many a one who had passed on before—many a loved one whom I had seen depart to that unknown bourn from whence no traveler returns again to take up the form—but who I find do take form of spirit matter and return to visit their earthly scenes, and hover around the dear ones left on the earth plane.

My first awakening to consciousness of this new life, seemed so truly natural I felt a delightful happiness pervading my being. Those dear angels, whose ministering kindness aroused to consciousness my feeble spirit, gave me full assurance of a continued life in this new phase of being. Truly, a light broke in upon my being, a wonderful change, and yet I lived and held converse with those who had long preceded me. My mother, who was truly my guardian spirit, gave me into the protection of those who should assist in strengthening and arousing my self-sustaining power to become an independent being, to act in the great drama of spirit existence. They took me to the most lovely scenes; scenes that bewildered my feeble conception, and yet so natural that I could only wonder at its life-like associations.

At this time I felt that I was surrounded by a host of divine beings, but upon looking, I saw many of my dear friends of earth rejoicing at my coming—those who had passed on years gone by, who had almost passed out of my mind, had now come to welcome me to this new home. Aged friends were before me now living pictures of youth

and beauty, robed in pure, celestial garments of azure brightness. They had come to welcome me to this bright sphere and bear me on to bright and heavenly knowledge of my present condition.

How my soul swelled with emotion at the thought that all were here in this beautiful world, and no one cast out, but all growing brighter as they become acquainted with the true laws of development.

Truly, my first knowledge was astonishment, delight and wonder at the gorgeous scenery of scintillated light from gorgeous domes above—with flowers whose perfume wrapped me within their folds of sweetness—while beautiful birds of every hue warbled forth their strains of music in such sweet tones of melody that I seemed to lose myself amid so much loveliness and grandeur that I slept.

How long, I have no knowledge. I was awaked by a voice saying, "My son, I wish you to come up higher." Looking up, I saw my mother, and with her a band of angels who I had not seen before.

These were a band of martyrs who had come up through great tribulation, who had fought bravely and had won the crown of knowledge, and often returned to earth to minister to those who were still striving for liberty. They had been with us in our dark and trying moments of sorrow and fear, guiding and directing us through the perilous struggle for freedom, and had inspired many a feeble heart and nerved many a palsied arm to oppose the uplifted blow which was raised to crush out that divine spark of freedom that burned upon the altar of our souls. It was to them who had lived and died for that great boon for which we were then contending, that they had come from their bright home to assist us to gain that freedom here which they saw and felt, but could not gain only through the dissolving elements of the flesh. I stood confounded, and said to them do you tell me then that we can return back to earth and become ministering spirits to those we have left there? Truly, my son said an aged sire, such is the truth, and we have come to you, knowing your sympathy and love for those around you, and your impressibility to become *en rapport* with such as have kind and generous natures to prepare you for a continuation of the mission you are so well adapted to fill. The love of your countrymen and confidence reposed in you, will enable you to do much good for the advancement of that liberty, that generous, confiding love of brotherly kindness which you so generously manifested while sustaining and upholding them in their great struggle for

freedom. Truly this is joy unspeakable to know that I may still be permitted to return to earth and mingle again in the scenes I have loved so well—this is joy indeed. I now understand why heaven is such a beautiful place, and why angels are so happy in it—because they can participate in all that has made life happy; a continuation of blest associations; a continuation of a renewed life to do good and receive good; to be givers and receivers. What a wonderful lesson to the soul, that to be happy we must impart our good gifts to others, that they may be benefited so as to benefit others again—a divine law of the Almighty; the more we give the more we receive. I perceive the overshadowing wisdom of this great lesson. How did my soul bound with delight to know that I could again be permitted to help the down-trodden and suffering of earth. I was truly blest with such heavenly rays of light breaking in upon my yet infant senses as it were, that I seemed to forget those divine beings who surrounded me, and who quietly took me to a gorgeous home, when again I lost myself in repose.

On awakening from this strengthening sleep, I felt invigorated and refreshed, ready to go forth to new duties, my mind being filled with joy unspeakable at the wonderful developments that were transpiring in this new transition.

Again an angel stood before me, and told me to follow him, as I did so, he wafted me through wondrous scenes of changing life, over mountains, whose majestic slopes and towering heights were grand beyond description, passing through flowery valleys whose running streams and cooling shades invited to repose.

Before us lay a lovely valley, whose bosom was real with sweet-tinted mosses and flowers of every hue. Just as we neared an elevation of gently sloping hills, we beheld grottoes and mansions of pearly brightness, dazzling in the sunlight.

A bright angel, too lovely for description, stepped before us, pointing upwards. We raised our eyes, and beheld a charmed circle above shedding rays of light and beauty around us. She spoke, and then I saw the sweet lineaments of a departed friend, who had passed away long years before—one who had enchained my heart in my early youth, when the brow was clear, and sorrow had not set its seal on my brow of care. She stepped or glided forward, extending her hand, saying, "Welcome, friend, welcome here. I have waited long for you as a dear friend from my earth-home. That band you see coming are dear friends of our early associations. Your presence has

drawn them here to welcome you to this new life ; they will take you hither to show you their beautiful sphere, when you have become more awakened to your new surroundings." I lived again through the past—the long past that had not returned to me in many years—all seemed fresh now as when I wandered over the bright scenes in my youthful happiness. Can this be possible, I said, that I meet you again more beautiful than before—truly, this is real, this is heaven, more of heaven, more of joy than the one we pictured in our earthly life—for does it not give us all of our brightest our happiest realities here again, full fresh in the embodiment of life, to be forever blessed—forever progressing and elevating one another.

This bright spirit said "Follow me." She turned into a gorgeous palace, where I beheld in an arched room constellated with gems of rarest beauty, an art-gallery of paintings of our noblest, our most illustrious men and women of earth life, many who we would not find in the galleries of earth paintings, but who were known by soul teaching to be worthy of a place in the soul world.

Wealth or position had not brought them here, but the true, living soul that worked itself out in humility, ignoring suffering for the truth they would not deny.

Could you see the soul speaking through the expression of the eye, you would wonder that they had been neglected while in earth life. Truly here was fit study for inspiration, living, breathing life startling out from those angelic works.

After viewing these, we were ushered into another room or arched dome, whose sides were filled with works of art and scientific lore—the sages, the poets, the painters, sculptors, philosophers, heroes and martyrs of every age and clime, who had expressed through these volumes their thought, their investigations, their trials and experiences gained while inhabitants of this earthly sphere.

Wonderful was this great library, and truly did I stand in wonder and amazement at this to me incomprehensible grandeur of what I saw before me. Still we moved on to another circular dome, when to my astonished gaze opened a museum of every thing created on our globe from its first formation to the present time or at that time, for that was during my first introduction to spirit spheres. These are spirit designs before the earth is moulded into form, for spirit conceives and impregnates earth with its conception of everything that was made, whether life, vegetable or mineral. Thus we beheld the models of spirit life. Wonderful indeed, are thy works, O God, Thou great

Divine; should we not give thanks to Thee whom to know is to love unspeakable and full of glory. The guide, for such this bright angel was, told me that all inventions or designs were preconceived in spirit-life and impressed upon those minds most susceptible and best adapted to such controls given at the time the world most needs them or can appreciate them—thus supplying her wants as fast as she demands—showing an all-wise power creating wants and supplying them. What a thought! that souls that hunger after food find their supply in spirit communion, whether through mechanical labor, mental lore or inspirational wisdom.

We now moved on. She said that she would take me to the homes of some who had been earth's poets. We came to a lovely spot where clustered beautiful trees and flowers, with miniature lakes and mounds which gave such a life scene that I felt chained to the spot.

Here were the homes of Shelly, Pope and Dryden, sages and philosophers in their earth time and age, resting in this sphere to revel again in those luxurious scenes of song, in which they loved to linger. Volumes of poems lay around, whose language had startled the world, and volumes that should arouse it again through other pens.

Such I found this beautiful locality—a living breathing witness of continued life. While we were contemplating of these beautiful homes, I was impressed to look at a lovely lake where were many spirits congregated. Following my guide, we approached to where they were gathered—when, suddenly, a shout of heavenly music broke upon my senses and swelled within those vibrating emotions of grandeur and sublimity that seemed to carry me to all that had ever passed on to higher and holier realms of bliss. These were those whom I had long loved in sympathy, mingling together with those whose homes I had just passed. They came to us and seemed to recognize me by a peculiar tie that binds spirit to spirit.

We were welcomed to this beautiful retreat, and many were the inquiries for their home associations.

After passing a pleasant time, we returned to the home of my guide, when bidding me adieu, we parted.

My mother again approached, saying, "My son, we will now take you back to earth, where you may recognize the great sphere in which you will be guided and directed by those who will show you your mission."

I was happy to be permitted to revisit my home where all was dear to me; where many a friend still dwelt in the form to whom I longed to make known my happiness in

being able to return to earth in the happy consciousness of being able to impart good if not to make myself known.

How eager did I again revisit old scenes, and how fresh came back to me all my past, and how truly gratified to be permitted this great blessing.

How I longed to make myself known to the dear ones left on earth. I was told that the time would come when I would be able to make myself known, be recognized as one who would be a friend to those still living upon the earth, that my duties on earth were only a commencement of continual life. That now I was being prepared to help those who still linger in bondage, to awaken those who slept in unconsciousness of their true life; that, that liberty for which I was an instrument to gain, had only commenced, and the continuation was a full, a free light for all to see, that should be as free to all as the sun's rays, that no one could hide or destroy; that it might illuminate all; that there should be no more oppression, no more bondage for man, but a free, universal freedom for all, an elevated spiritual condition of mankind; that they must be lifted out of this fear and darkness, and the angel world must mingle their sympathies and draw by their influence the souls of men out of bondage into confidence and love with God and the angel world.

How truly has to me that prophecy been fulfilled, that one of angels ministering unto the wants of men. Could man to-day, with all the great inspiration of this era, realize the wonderful changes being wrought out through angel ministry, he would not so often despair for the future.

What to man often looks dark and obscure may be the greatest of blessings in disguise. We trust too much to our powers and knowledge of eternal things and yield not enough to our interior promptings.

When man learns to listen to the teachings from within, he will enable those loved friends to come nearer and impress them with the truthfulness of life.

I know, by my own experience, that I was helped much in my earthly life. I felt it then, but now I know. I was not the only one; thousands before me knew that great fact, and silently heeded it, and were blest accordingly.

For many years the world has been taught to deny those teachings as superstitious, and believers were called dreamers or fanatics, and utterly discarded in the world by popular teachings. Mothers and grandmothers have been looked upon as imbecil and deranged, who spoke of seeing or believing in "ghosts" or dreams; and many an

honest, true-hearted, loving being, has been called a witch in communication with the devil, because she could tell of the future. Oh what dreadful darkness and superstition reigned in the days of witchcraft; how many bright souls were condemned and cruelly murdered by infatuated and misled beings, whose bigoted education and fear of a devil caused them to commit. Oh ignorance! how terrible are the revolutions which must roll over you to work out the great problem of a true life, whose inner essence is the aroma of all progress.

The angel world has ever ministered to the wants of man through all time, and had not bigotry and persecution ruled the earth with such a fearful hand, we might now be in sweet communion with the world, without doubt or fear. But those who have held power have used it to their own aggrandizement, and to sustain it have compelled the masses to ignorance and servitude, transferring God into a tyrant rather than a father.

Even when Christ was sent to enlighten and harmonize the world, he could not be recognized by them because he came not as they liked but as meek and lowly. How are the meek and lowly appreciated to-day, are they exalted or acknowledged? No. Such a spirit can never grow into a true spiritual condition, and the world cease to recognize the eternal as the one great aim of life. How many sacrifice dear and loving friends for the sake of being popular amongst those whose soul's aim is to shine like a flash of lightning while the bolt strikes its votary to the heart.

The cold formal teachings of theology has done its work upon the hearts of men; it has hardened them to other's goodness, and uplifted those who had its instructions as something better than a brother who does not see as they do.

If they would take Christ's example and teachings for their guide, striving to do as He did, with the same simple faith doing good and persecuting none, they would not remain idle, waiting for him to cleanse them from their sins by the blood He shed upon the cross. All that fail to learn that lesson in earth life, will have to learn it in the spirit; will have to learn that they have a work to do, and that if not done in earth life must be done in spirit, as no one can escape his mission. All "must work out their own salvation" in earth life or in the life to come.

Such were Christ's words as were impressed upon him and such all find it on coming here. Those who do not live with and by the spirit in earth life must work through that darkness after coming to spirit life. There are many

phases or spheres through which spirit has to grow to become an independent spirit of the spheres. Many linger around earth years, having so much of the earthy about them that it attracts to itself all that belongs to it. If the spirit has not grown to a condition to free itself from its material, it will cling around until grown into a more spiritual condition. Thousands have to come back and take possession of other persons to carry out their unprogressed condition, and the more material their medium is, the better can spirits of that class act through them. All should endeavor to class their mediums according to their development, and not allow those progressed to a more spiritual plane to mingle with those of the earlier development in a social relation of circles unless as teachers. It is the same law as in governing schools. No teacher, for a moment, would bring himself down to the capacity of a scholar in the intellectual scale, expecting that scholar to be as well educated as himself, after having passed through many grades of education. But he may love, respect and mingle with them to instruct, to elevate them to a condition of knowledge. But to try to render himself as uneducated, would place him out of his condition, making it very inharmonious for both. Thus you see the same law governs both. We commence at the primary and rise in the progressive scale of intelligence. Infants are beautiful as miniature men and women, but they are not men and women for want of experience and knowledge, gained by the progressive life. This beautiful law of development gives a new light of usefulness through time and throughout eternity.

All are one great family, working out principles of life and assisting one another in the great workshop of eternity, all being perfectly arranged in harmony and beauty.

SECTION SECOND.

I have wandered from my theme, perhaps, in illustrating the great problem of life, but when such volumes come up before me of retrospection, I cannot fail to illustrate as I feel the wonderful in God's great arcana, that life once given, ever liveth in and through all eternity.

I saw the bright star rising, which should be seen by all, and being seen would awaken the world to a conscious-

ness of the great revelation. Inspired men of all ages have felt this grand law, but could not fully comprehend it. The general awakening of the present day, is only the result of a long struggle between darkness and light, ignorance and education, not the refined education that limits its pupil to certain rules and forms, but a general education of mind and soul, an impulse to learn all things, an investigation of all laws of God, both material and spiritual, not cramping the mind to certain limits, but cultivating, enlarging and beautifying all things within this great temple of life. I find myself coming back many times to earth to gain instruction from those who have to give from their knowledge of earth in her more recent developments, while I too can impart knowledge gained in sphere life, and often get sweet instruction while ministering to the wants of man. The world looks to us for all knowledge being governed by a law like unto themselves. We find ourselves limited to conditions we cannot overcome, and can give light or knowledge no farther than we have individually advanced, unless at times, through inspirational moments, we reach beyond our sphere. Still, we have much to give, were conditions only understood to bring out the hidden treasures of the soul, and when it can be brought around we can do much.

As yet, the world is far from being passive to the proper conditions. It is only by great efforts that so much has been gained, but enough to know that we feel that we have been recognized as a living principle, a desire to be free as God, free as the inspiration with which we are surrounded. Every element in life must be free to receive the fullness of our father and our mother's love—unbounded, unbroken. The great struggle for liberty to worship God according to the dictates of our own interior longings, wrote itself on the tablets of eternity. To be compelled to worship according to another's form or creed, is as abhorrent to the soul as to compel one living to be tied to a dead body, and drag it with him through life in anticipation of an eternal repose. No, every awakened soul has aspirations adapted to his wants, and can be led by truth and beauty up to higher and holier principles, but can never be driven by threats or scorn to embrace what to them has no beauty or holiness. Terrors never create love and trusting confidence; there is always a fear of some terrible change which will bring them to some dread account. It was this great inspiration which aroused our forefathers to forsake their homes and friends, to find freedom to worship their great teacher, who they felt impressed them on to a home fresh

with life and free from the hands of its creator, where they might worship in the fullness and purity of their souls. How beautiful, how glorious was the free unbounded love that went up to the father of all for his love and mercy, in opening a way that gave liberty to express those beautiful thoughts that came swelling up in their souls, gushing out in praise and joy for their great deliverance, to praise God after their own mind. What will not the soul do to emerge into light? It will seek its own—it cannot be driven back; you may check it or strive to check it from its course—but like a river it will burst its bounds, and struggle through in other ways in its course to the ocean—for there it is bound and there it will go. But try and beautify it by removing the obstructions, and it will flow on beautiful to look upon, and useful as a current of life to bear us on to our destination. Such then is the soul of man; it feels its own intention, its own awaking; and shall another dare to deny or debar that soul the freedom of sweet communion with God. Can we fathom God? if not, can we fathom the soul? If God is infinite, it must take everything to make God; and is it not necessary that every soul must have its own inspiration of God; we cannot all understand him alike; we can only see him from our own standpoint. Some see him in fear as a terrible being; that is partly owing to education or surroundings, or unhealthy conditions of the mind, from physical disorganizations; and they look through those phases as we look through smoked glass, and give the coloring of that divine being through distorted lenses, each seeing Him according to their capacity. Therefore all see Him differently; still He is the same God, yesterday, to-day and forever. Those whose souls have been cramped by fear of Him, look at Him only to dread Him as a hard and cruel master, while those who recognize Him with confidence and love as a true father, unbounded in love and wisdom, see Him beautified and good, bestowing good gifts unto his children. They behold Him, in everything as a recognized being, whose fullness is seen everywhere. It is this emotional, this restless law of development that inspires and moves beings out of the common and dull routine of every-day life; to arouse them from a dormant capacity as it were to a new, a living awakening to a something newer, and a higher and holier principle of life. It is not us that are doing this, but the divine spark that is within us that arouses us to a consciousness of a want not supplied—a yearning after some-

thing beyond, for which we need and must have to satisfy the demands of our being.

We have not understood God's laws that the soul has its requirements as well as the physical body, and that to nourish it we must understand what those wants are, and supply them as readily as we would the starving body with its desire for nourishment. We have fed the body with food as we imperfectly understood it, but have utterly denied food for the soul of thousands of starving children. It has been a custom—a law in fact—to compel men and women (made and recognized by God as his children) to worship him according to a religious rite, entirely against their inclination, better judgment or intuitive impressions, because it was a recognized religion of the world.

Must every flower grow upon a rock, because one chanced to be born there or in the dark cavern, or does God bless them everywhere. Do they not flourish best where nature is best adapted to their wants—the morning sunshine, the fertile soil and sparkling dew-drops. Yet those beautiful flowers which are so lovely, are in as sweet communion with their creator as those more blest with congenial life. We feel that it is delight to have beautiful birds caged to administer to our happiness; but are they living a fullness of life; have they liberty? I always felt while listening to their plaintive strains, that there was a sadness lingering around them which gave me a feeling of pity for their prisoned condition. Every soul longs for freedom, and feels a mysterious tie binding him to a future, a different life. We try to overcome it by rendering ourselves happy to present surroundings, but we inevitably feel that we are to act some part to us yet unknown. We cannot chain the soul; it is linked with the unfathomable beyond this sphere; we are beings of change, and the infinite has written out our lives on the great future.

Worlds cannot hold us; we are ever moving onward, and upward to an unknown intelligence which will give to us as fast as we can comprehend it—infinite instinct draws us unto that protection and nourishment which is designed for our use—but we have sadly denied that silent language, which never deceives when rightly understood.

The inevitable law of progress shows that we are destined to be an intelligent and spiritual world; everything demonstrates that fact, from the earliest formation to the present time. I thought much of these things before leaving earth; I saw many things which proved beyond a doubt to my mind, that this earth was developing itself; and that it passed of forms to another life which were to live and com-

municate with us intelligently. Many things occurred to me which gave proof of this. Those trying scenes through which I passed in that long revolutionary struggle for liberty, gave me many an impression of an interior, a spirit-life, and left a conviction with me that I should live again, and return to earth with a full consciousness of being, and as a dweller in spirit-life should recognize the material world; but my ideas of heaven were never clearly defined. It was always clothed in mystery regarding its true locality and surroundings. I always felt that I was led or guided rather than an independent being; I felt the preserving hand of God, as I recognized it then in shielding me from danger, while those around me were stricken down while in comparative safety. There seemed to be a presence always about me, whispering words of consolation and encouragement. History records some of those wonderful events which transpired to preserve me from danger and privations, while so many of my dear comrades fell to rise no more on earth, but rose in immortality, there to await my coming with welcome songs of praise, as to a brother who had tarried longer upon that troubled bosom of mother earth, until her restless children had found peace and liberty to shield them from oppression and bigotry, where they could praise God under their own vine and fig-tree.

Those beautiful inspirations in my earthly life are now being realized in my spiritual progression—those beautiful interior thoughts are becoming living truths to my spiritual senses, for every flower and drop of water, every grain of sand speaks unto the soul its own future, and is again recognized in spirit-life with all its fullness and soul meaning to our spiritual understanding.

The poet, the painter, in their inspirational moments, illustrate the soul of things to the world, in a language which inspires those who read or look upon the canvas with the wonderful and beautiful in nature and art—that soul language we took with us to our beautiful home as mementoes of past ages when we were mortal and inhabitants of the sphere of physical, when the soul had a mortal covering to protect and perfect a divinity, an independent form to be retained and perfected in its organization, while a dweller here—a recognized, identified, spiritual being in its progression through the different spheres of spirit-life. Such, then, I found Heaven, a perpetual living epitome, where we, as children born into spirit-life, were to grow, taking on with us such conditions as this life gave us, of variety and attraction that were harmonious to our condi-

tion, and as we awoke to a higher and nobler condition we lose those things we no longer need, rising out as it were Phoenix like from our ashes of the past, to a newer and brighter sphere of usefulness, for I find that in laying down our earthly garments that the spirit does not find eternal rest, but has just taken up its work in this wonderful progress of eternal law.

I thought while on earth that my labors would be ended when the great rest came—that my mission was filled when I entered paradise and could have constant association with the blest, and be permitted an occasional visit to earth, for I could not give up the thought that spirits might come near earth at times and minister somewhat to their conditions—but as I have said, I had but an indistinct idea of heaven and the angel world.

What I have seen since my advent to spirit life has been a lesson to me and may be some benefit to those yet in the form. I find that all my usefulness did not cease at my change—that I had only laid out a small portion of usefulness and labor while in earth-life, and that what good seed I had sown while in the form would do its good work—that my deviations from natural laws only debarred for a time the spirit progress to higher conditions.

SECTION THIRD.

The first sounds of those tiny raps awakened a slumbering world to a consciousness of living witnesses ministering to them the unfoldment of a new era of existence which would usher into being a new principle of thought and action; a divine revelation from the world of those departed who again had returned, making themselves known by a thousand new and strange forms of speech, and action, giving an alphabet of spirit-life, through and by which they could communicate to their dear friends from the other shore, proving by those wonderful demonstrations their true identity.

With what joy did those living witnesses greet us as we silently, though truthfully, gave demonstrations of continued life.

But the world, always slow to recognize anything beyond their limited comprehension, denied and scorned the

thought that immortal friends could or would return again to earth. Many, through fear of some dread exposure, imagining the revelations of some of their hidden mysteries or wrongs done to others, scoffed at the possibility of spirit return, while in their hearts they trembled lest it should be true.

The Pharisee felt it would revolutionize his theory of religion. Such has been the principal cause of denying the mission of spirits to this world, wishing by combating and denying to deny to us the privilege of returning to earth, fearing the dead may tell tales of the many wrongs done them here. The old adage, that "dead men tell no tales," is pleasantly sustained by them, and to awaken to a knowledge of an intelligence beyond returning, startled the bigoted, wicked world to its foundation. But the dear ones who have longed for truth and freedom found an answering call to their progress, a hope beyond the dark and silent tomb, and a happy recognition of fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters and friends who would come and administer consolation to their souls as well as those saints of old whom they pray so unceasingly to.

We have now an intelligent communication opened and understood between the spheres, and each and all are permitted to receive tokens of their friends.

How should the world rejoice at this great event; but, like all others of importance, it is denied, trampled on, and those through whom it came are not recognized as honest or reliable because it was not given to some popular religion, or because it was considered an impossibility, as all great advanced thoughts are received, and as Jesus himself was received when he came teaching this same doctrine. They soon crucified Him, and would have those through whom those raps came, had not sufficient light shone upon the world through mesmerism, magnetism and electric currents to push back the crowd of ignorance that would have destroyed them.

How truly many love darkness rather than light fearing the light will expose their hideous deformity. The great awakening to life, the advent of telegraphing the thoughts from north to south, east to west, from the absent wanderer to the home circle gave an impetus to life, a heart throb to millions of living, intelligent beings, who felt at once the names of those whom oceans and mountains had separated for years—felt in the unit of that great link a response of brotherly love and friendship cemented. But was it done without an effort, a struggle? Did man receive it at once, or did he rebel and deny the possibility of such

a scene. The spirit world had found a channel by and through which they could work out the problem of connecting thought controlling space and distance into seconds of time.

Now the world looks on, and feels the great importance of that wonderful invention and gain when continents are united. Another great mind was sought which had to pass the great ordeal of doubting Thomases when at last it was supposed he had gained the victory, what wonderful demonstrations in his favor, but when, alas, it was pronounced a failure, he was hooted and sneered at as a poor, fanatical idiot for ever dreaming of such a scheme.* Such is life and such are the phases of mankind while laboring under ignorance; the first to assail without investigation and the first to adopt when it has proved itself an independent truth.

Those who do most for the world receive the least reward in its worldly benefits; but the soul that lifts itself above feels a reward beyond all earthly aggrandizement.

They are lifted in aspirations and sympathy to those ennobling, spiritual influences which have upheld and sustained them through their trying ordeal, and now reward them in soul language that mortal cannot give or take away. I have been with you often and mingled my sympathies with you in all your trying scenes of this late unhappy war. The true spirit of liberty has a diamond setting and will remain when all dross or ignorance will be removed. Many of its particles may have been destroyed, but only to make the remaining centre a more brilliant, a more permanent structure. The grand framework has been immortalized by the grand architect of nature's harmonies, and remodeled by our early charter of governmental form in uniting and still dispensing freedom to all as we then understood it, and through the developing powers of time wrought out through opposing elements, a chosen, a brighter light for freedom.

Through all this we have not been idle, and through the ministration of the angel-world, a spiritual light has broken in upon the darkness of the mind, awakening it to a higher and a nobler impulse that every man has a right to speak and think the thoughts or inspirations God has given him, feeling or upholding a self-reliant assurance, that a power sustains all good and ennobling action.

Your dear departed Lincoln, do you think him dead because removed from sight? No, he stands to-day an immortalized spirit, investigating and sustaining this, our beloved country; and though a martyr through the con-

* Would say to youthful readers, that Morse's Atlantic Cable at first proved a failure.

spiracy of an infatuated, bigoted people, still he pities them for their darkness and inharmonious conditions.

Could you see him to-day, you would find him at his work, with the same calm, benignant look tracing the line of the nation. He lives not only to-day in the hearts of his people, but a living, acting principle, as true to the interest of his country as when on earth. No, so long as such men are moulded in earth and transplanted in heaven, your noble country will never be destroyed, but will be sustained to outgrow all bigotry and error, uniting with a free and ennobling purpose of life.

My great desire is to see this glorious structure reared so harmonious, that angels can come in true sympathy, uniting the two worlds in one, giving and receiving the true elements of life.

Truly is it not one life, with its variety, its changes growing more and more refined, purified on its upward progress, yet not scorning to return to embrace those yet clothed with material, to impregnate them with the spiritual, the divine influence of their spiritual life. Oh, how can any one wish to debar the thought that angels can minister unto the wants of man. Angels are only dissolved mortals, and by purifying by sympathy and love, by communion with those from the other side, we feel the same interest for life as when on earth; being free from the mortal, we see and understand the wants and necessities of man clearer, and to a more enlarged sphere than while in the form. My investigation has proved that there is no hell, where the wicked are forever tortured, and no heaven where there is eternal rest from action. I find continued progress from lower to higher conditions, and what man does not learn or live up to while on earth, he must learn or grow to after changing forms and worlds, for he is only passed to another sphere of action, where he continues to unfold in that the spiritual world has to give.

We are placed here as the beginning of life to use the blessings of this world in preparing and fitting us for another. By understanding the true nature of this world and its uses, improving and becoming acquainted with natural laws, thereby learning to harmonize our conditions with the wants and desires of our natures, that we may grow to a perfectness of the principles of life, that the unfoldment may be a perfect soul at its departure, not cramped or deformed, but beautifully adapted and developed when it leaves its mother's hands to enter into the folds of its Father, God, a well developed, spiritual child, born of both material and spiritual life.

We sometimes come to earth singly, and sometimes as a convocation of spirits, and mingle around the loved spots of earth. Sometimes hosts attend when there is sufficient to attract, and you often see mediums so perfectly under the power of surrounding spirits as to change like the twinkling of an eye from one influence to another; such anxiety have the spirits to manifest themselves, that to come they will be satisfied with a shake of the hand if no more, just to be permitted once more to feel the pressure of some friend of earth. It gives them strength to go onward and rejoice in this new found truth, as they have found that it affords as much happiness to the spirits as to those still in the form to be known and to realize that they have not passed beyond this sphere forever. This it is that makes heaven the free, full association of dear friends, a mingling of soul, not a heaven to be placed beyond the reach of dear ones cherished with only a stray friend being permitted to enter the holies of holies, while the many not recognized are refused admittance, and are cast off forever.

What must be the state or condition of that soul with full understanding to find himself alone in a beautiful spot, where no dear friend could approach. Would it be heaven to him? Would he not rather choose hell with all its pains, and be permitted to see the dear ones of his earth-life? Give a being a palace, with all its grandeur and wealth, and compel him to live without the idols of his heart, would he not rather choose a cave within some lone spot with his cherished ones around him. How cold must have been those hearts who first conceived such a distorted and horrible religion with no warmth of sunshine, no ray of love to enliven and warm into being a loving, trusting confidence in the wisdom and goodness of God for his unbounded mercies bestowed. With what zeal they have worked to mar and deface the beautiful picture of harmonious laws destroying nature and checking the free, fresh impulses of God's holy sympathies.

A long experience in spirit-spheres has unfolded to me the great problem of man's existence, as it does to every spirit that has risen to a condition of harmonious truth.

It tears down and destroys all theories though made with honest conviction of mind, which are not made in the principle of love and goodness, for that mind that conceived in error has found a resting place until it can gather more light. If a theory is known to be false and given to the world ignorantly, or to deceive, the sooner that mask is torn away the better. Better that the eye should be torn from the socket, than to let it remain to destroy the

whole body by its disease. The object of angels coming to the world to-day to represent themselves, is to remove the bigotry, superstition and ignorance of the world regarding the continued life of departed friends, and to welcome again the light of knowledge which Jesus of Nazareth preached and practised while in an inspired condition. Loving, breathing words came from his soul, while he practiced true brotherly feeling to his disciples and all that would listen to him. His bright and holy example illustrates the sweet humility of a loving, forgiving spirit, blending the two worlds in sweet communion.

I have met him in the brightest glory; a glorified saintly expression pervades his divine countenance; with a sweet smile he beckons all to him who can approach his bright surroundings; a train of brightness follows him in his mission through the spheres, for he is still fulfilling his mission of love and kindness, still carrying out the great principle he advocated while on earth. Conversing with higher attributes of knowledge that are dispensing harmony everywhere, I find that there is much to learn, and that we never cease to learn throughout eternity. The wondrous beauty and attractive law of progress draws us on from one sphere to another of usefulness. My mission now, is to harmonize the condition of men to a higher law—to a usefulness and knowledge of that power that exists within the great fountain of all life. The world is a stranger unto itself. Man with all his knowledge has not known his brother man. The truest hearts have been overlooked, because the sensitive soul has drawn itself beneath the external covering, which has been cultivated to wear a cold exterior, and to check back the least sympathetic expression, for fear of showing a weakness or ignorance of the educational etiquet of society. I was never conventional, and could not adopt that superciliousness and vanity which leads many of earth's brightest ornaments astray from the beautiful in nature. I felt that in honesty of purpose and candor of expression, we gained more of the real and substantial of life, the true enjoyment of all that this earth affords. I could see nothing gained by deception—that would only result in exposure and mortification—and that all who practiced it sooner or later became victims of their own folly. I see many to-day despised for their honesty in expressing the true meaning of their souls, and they are called "foolish" by those who have learned to wear a false covering or mask to hide their deformity. It is better to tear away the false cover-

ing, and let the true impulse come forth to the light, that what is not good can be removed.

The free speech of the people to-day is that which will convert the world. By expression, we can gather the true elements of nature, and seeing them know how to cleanse them.

Suppression of thought by the masses while being dictated to by the few, and by those limited to certain creeds, causes deception to be practiced between the higher and lower classes of men. The lower orders fearing to disobey openly, and yet feeling an antagonistic principle prevailing them, knowing oftentimes the justice of their cause, are led into revolution and bloodshed; we have felt it through all past ages; I have seen it in our own last revolution.

Suppression at the South of voice and education, was the great lump through which permeated the education of free speech of liberal minds; its impregnating process aroused a disturbing element, which only could subside by throwing off the froth and scum of ignorance; bringing to light a condition of oppression both loathsome and terrible, to an enlightened nation whose motto was Liberty. There must always be a refining process through the different stages of civilization—the removing of the old and worn out forms of materialism, by which the new life or growth must be recognized in life as a living principle.

Many cling to old forms as old and tried friends, and cannot part from them, fearing to trust to the new. We can love and respect them for the good they have done in their day, cherishing all the good they gave; but shall we stand idly looking back on those who have finished their work here, and have left their deeds to speak of them in their day, and not look beyond for a more developed and progressed being in a higher life? No; we find that change is written on everything that we behold; that change is the great principle of life. Therefore we must keep pace with all created matter. Will a rose bloom continually, or does it bud and bloom, and fade and become scentless; the leaves fade and soon another tiny bud and a gradual unfolding of another beautiful rose, thus continuing life and freshness.

You would not cling to the old rose for its freshness, for it has gone, but for its reminiscence of some faithful remembrance or memento of its past beauty or fragrance.

Such is life; all forms must change. Minds susceptible of thought will grow out into new and untried channels awakening to new ideas, new revelations inspired to act

from a new and undefined impulse which do not harmonize with the old; feeling that the old is too narrow, too confining for their capacity, and like an olden garment does not fit easily or gracefully, but cramps and feels uncomfortable. Would you compel any one to wear a garment they had outgrown; then why confine minds enlarged to submit to conditions they feel altogether too narrow for their capacity.

If we reason, let us reason honestly. If one is necessary for physical life, surely the other is necessary for spiritual life; for the natural and spiritual are so nearly blended that we cannot mar the one without injury to the other. Therefore, to grow beautiful, we must allow the spiritual to unfold in goodness and freedom, believing that an enlarged spiritual condition will produce a harmonious, physical organization as a healthy, well-developed body produces a free and independent spirit. These conditions have not been rightly understood, and a new era of existence is beginning to unfold to the wants of man. There are a great many obstacles to be overcome to remove the useless forms and ceremonies of past ages, when the world in its undeveloped condition worked through the material more than the spiritual, and might rather than right governed the world. When Paine's *Age of Reason* broke upon the world its flood of light, and opened a channel for thinking minds, how the blood-hounds of oppression howled down one of the greatest men of the age. They could not find language strong enough to anathematize his name, but not a word for his self-sacrifice and nobleness of heart for our country's welfare in her darkest hour. No, the trial was over and the country saved; he was no longer needed to protect them by his voice, and pen, and arm.

They were now ready to destroy, ah! even annihilate the very name of Paine, whose soul soared above the ignorance and bigotry of the day and went out to the great future, when the minds of men should be loosed still further from the bondage of creeds. Truly, that man's day is yet to come—when men shall reverence and love him as an inspired and crucified man. His name is immortalized on the records of time and eternity.

How different has the world recognized us. Still we were both led by the power of God through the angel-world in our different spheres. He was guided to his work by the great spiritual light given him, and expressed what to him was a truth; standing alone with the unseen world on one side, and the darkness, superstition and big-

otry of a cold, heartless world on the other. Oh ! could you see him to-day as he lifts the veil of obscurity from the minds of the people as they are awakening to a condition to see the truth of that great and inspired work, the Age of Reason,—you would see a soul alive for the great truth of freedom of thought, an elevation of soul to higher and holier principles. To-day, ‘Tom Paine,’ the infidel, as he has been ingloriously called by the clergy and all christian sects, stands far above those who have tried to climb into heaven on his ruins. His independence and candor should have been enough to have commanded at least the respect of those who were dependent upon him for the liberty they now possessed, to worship God after the dictates of their own hearts, truly, they were blind to their own welfare, for as they were emerging from oppression into liberty, their first assault was upon the one who had been my best friend and adviser, and their great friend in their sorest time of need. And for the same reason did they persecute him, while making a father of me, made a demon of him. What terrible revolutions must take place before the true light appears. Thus it has been with all great and advanced minds ; the world cannot understand them until they have passed on, and then they begin to grow up to a condition to understand and appreciate them.

Yes, your beloved Washington, as you call me, feels proud of the association of Thomas Paine in this life, and in the great spiritual harmony of the spheres. We are co-workers in this great spiritual field of reform, and many are the blest associations as we still work on in the true mission of liberty, of thought and speech—he in his sphere of usefulness and advancement, and I in mine of harmonizing and elevating. I, for the times in which I lived, and he in advance, leading the way to future events.

SECTION FOURTH.

We are now preparing for a newer and higher development in the spheres. Our elevation depends wholly upon our progress in this life. I feel now while giving this introductory of my reception and progress, and duties in spirit life, that I do neither justice to myself or the wor-

derful surroundings through which I have passed during my spiritual life, but as I was a plain spoken and candid man in earth-life, I find that I cannot elaborate of the wonderful and beautiful in the spheres as some might do with the same knowledge. I still feel that plain facts are better understood, and that we can draw nearer to the true soul of man, by leading him up gently and naturally to a truth which has been too long buried by strange depressions and elevations, and by prophetic visions which could not be reached by reason and harmonious law.

The great principle of all life, the universal spirit of all matter, whether spiritual or material, the Divine Architect of all, has always led and will always lead us and all things up through the developing process of growth, of knowledge and spiritual advancement. It is the inevitable law of life and regeneration. Production and reproduction can never cease in the material, and will be wrought out in beauty and perfectness in the spiritual spheres.

Here we again become co-workers in the beautiful spheres of spirit-life, each and all in his own capacity for blending and arranging what to him or her has the most attractions. Thus, you will find spirits coming to earth with a different phase of power controlling those mediums whose organization is best adapted and congenial to their influence. All mediums are not controlled alike. They do not look or think alike, naturally, and are not controlled by spirits with the same desires. Thus, you see some are controlled to speak, some to write, some to move physical or material bodies, others to rap, some for language, painting, surveying, geological, astronomical, seeing of spirits, describing friends or strangers, showing the positive and negative forces of life; in fact, all and every phase has to come to the knowledge of earth.

I have wandered long from my beautiful sphere home, finding so much to attract me to my early associations. I will now lead back in thought to those who wish to follow me through the labyrinthian to beautiful worlds of light and knowledge which I have been permitted to enjoy since I left your sphere of materiality.

I am now passing beyond those scenes I gave you of sphere life, and find myself resting to behold the wonders of God's great universe.

From this locality I seem to scan all things, I feel able to comprehend all things, my being takes in as it were all life; and still I feel drawn with an irresistible force to some locality where I am to witness the great law which governs all things. I feel an incomprehensible law per-

vading my being ; I am not alone ; I see millions of bright spirits and my own dear friends all about me guiding me on in this wonderful sphere of life. Oh ! God, thou infinite, shall I ever behold thee more fully in thy works than in this wonderful grandeur and sublimity, this happiness and harmony that pervades all things, *and of* gorgeous scenery, *and* artistic beauty. I seem to come *en rapport* with all, yet so distinctly define everything, that I lose myself in the hum of angel voices, the angelic choristers of the heavenly spheres. Shall we ever cease to grow or desire more. We feel sometimes that we have enough and should suffocate with more, and for a while are at rest. But again we find ourselves hungering and thirsting with other desires ; we cannot enjoy all at once, and therefore receive only such as our capacity is fitted to enjoy, continually growing to meet the conditions through which we are to pass. We commence life with but few wants, and receive all that is necessary as we grow. So also in the spiritual life, the infant draws to itself all that it needs as it develops into full spiritual existence. Thus, you see, that though I am blest beyond expression, still I know that I shall become acquainted with my surroundings and be led to other scenes throughout illimitable space,—returning, shall carry the fruits of knowledge to those who are following up through the wonderful, the beautiful of God's great kingdom.

We shall never cease to learn or lose the desire to know more. That law of impulse that soars to unknown realms in earth-life, never ceases in sphere-life ; it is the infinite placed within us that never dies ; that that moves us inspirationally onward forever and ever.

When the form through which inspiration is given is weakened or destroyed, it may act no longer, but takes to itself a form through which it can work in its progress throughout eternal ages.

When the aged can no longer gather up the beauty and knowledge of earth, because of their physical and mental decay, then does the spirit revel again in the knowledge of past experiences of love and happiness, living over again those bright and happy associations, reviewing the past to prepare it to be linked to the spiritual, when the worn-out casket is broken, and it is released from the confinement of material that is no longer needed to protect or develop the soul. Truly, there is nothing lost, for the spirit takes to itself all that it has gathered of experience or happiness while inhabiting the form ; carrying its treasures to its spirit-home, there to blend and beautify in its future

growth and associations in the spheres. Also, the material, though falling to decay, is not lost; for each and every particle has its place, its mission, a new field of action through which new forms will take possession to work out new developments. Thus, there is continuation of life, giving variety and beauty through this ever working law of the infinite which I was not permitted to know by education, and only felt in the inspiration of the soul.

Had I known how to have cultivated this spiritual knowledge, it would have advanced me on the spiritual plane of intelligence. Oh! man of this day, how blest is your lot in the free investigation of the spiritual influx into the darkened atmosphere of your life. Sure and steadfast are principles attracted to like principles; and as the unfolding bud reaches out its tiny leaves to the atmosphere until it is unfolded in all its beauty and fragrance, so the same law draws us on to our higher unfoldment. It is a growth of soul, a continuation throughout eternity. Shall wisdom cease at the threshold of eternity, and if so, why this longing after something we do not find in earth life?

Surely earth has sufficient for the material wants of man, and if he ceases to gather enough to place him at once in paradise, then his wants can be supplied at his mother's bosom—his earthly home. Nature is bountiful in her supplies of all material things, and our spiritual teachings have been of a Savior to redeem the world, leaving nothing for us to do throughout the ages of eternity. Will that be bliss? Can we feel that this is all we were designed for? No, God forbid. I know that every soul, properly understanding his needs, will never wish to be a drone in the kingdom of heaven, but will gather happiness by being a worker in the great universe. Inspiration is food that feeds the hungry soul and gives nourishment to the spiritual life, it is the unbroken link which binds us to the immortal, and through it the departed friends can minister to the wants of men. I find other spheres or planets are blending with our own; beings of angelic brightness visit and revisit our sphere, and speak of wondrous beauty surrounding them. They speak of the wonderful revelations in their world of changes, of progressive developments, records of past life in the lower spheres, showing plainly that all planets are formed by gradual process until they have passed on and resolved into a higher altitude of spiritual existence. Forms of life are similar to those of our earth; they are living evidence of what this earth is yet to be. Man will yet stand revealed in so harmonious a condition while in the form,

that he will perfectly recognize the spiritual condition of all the elements of his surrounding, and will be cognizant of the mission of angels, and will be in harmony with the spiritual.

Education is fast becoming general, and humane man begins to realize that he has been a stranger to himself, and studying outside of the true element of life, he finds that he is not acquainted with himself, for he is never at home, and when at home does not make himself acquainted with the edifice which he inhabits. If it gets out of repair he has to call a mechanic to put it in order.

Little by little truth comes in upon us, until like the sun's rays, we hope soon to see it fully illuminating and giving to all functions a free and full use, learn us the wonderful beauty and use of all our faculties, and bring them up to the requirements originally designed.

"Give, and ye shall receive more abundantly," was the teaching of an inspired man; and we have found the truth of that remark in spiritual faith as well as in physical life.

Truly, it is blessed to give as well as receive, for if you do good unto others, you will receive two-fold; first, in the happiness derived, and also by making room for something new to fill the place of the old, which you no longer needed, thereby giving to others what was only given to you, until you no longer needed it. Be not selfish, as it contracts the noble impulses of your nature. The miser is most miserable, living in constant fear of every one, suspicious of all, until he weaves himself a net of wretchedness from which he cannot extricate himself, and dies alone, perishing beside the demon avarice, without friendship or care.

What a weight drags that spirit down to earth; a weight mightier than mountains, gathering his own darkness from his undeveloped, selfish condition.

Seeing but one thing, having but one desire, binds the soul in chains and bondage while on earth, and drags it to a darkened condition in sphere-life, there to await release by a gradual, spiritual development.

Thus the Bible illustration that it was "easier for a camel (or cable, as it was intended to be read,) to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven"—for he has rendered himself so inharmionious to true simplicity and God-like trust in the infinite spirit, that it is impossible to rid himself of the importance of self aggrandizement. His God is his money, and the influence it brings is his happiness. He knows no other God, and recognizes no power but the power of

wealth and its influence. They stand an impenetrable wall between him and the spirit-world, for he scorns to listen to the silent teachings of ministering angels. But when sickness comes, or riches take to themselves wings and fly away, then comes the silent monitor to awaken the sleepy senses of thought and reason; reflection with its long train of regrets comes to arouse the dormant faculties of the mind. Friends that basked in the sunshine of his prosperity, are cold and distant, adding insult by their pity and neglect. Little by little is the soul aroused to a full consciousness of past neglect of the need of life's blessings, until it shrinks from its former surroundings, looking for the first time to a higher source of light and truth, and reaches out its aspirations to a higher and holier principle.

How little has life been understood; its principles, its bearings and surroundings upon other elements and associations of life. We are constantly repelling or attracting other elements; we are not independent beings, but are constantly dependent one upon another, as children of one great family, and cannot do a wrong to ourselves without injury to others surrounding us. In marring God's beautiful structure you render inharmony to others, and break the beautiful links which serve as ladders to reach the upper realms.

How much good a happy, bright countenance gives to those who look upon it. It is like sunshine beaming through a cloud. It drives darkness and gloom from its presence, and gives gladness and joy to hearts filled with sadness. It is like a light set upon a hill to guide the wanderer. We are feeding the world with crumbs, while the food for the soul lies buried beneath the rubbish of forms and pride, withholding the true wealth that was given by God to bestow upon humanity without money or price.

How often does the soul languish for sympathy and friendship while surrounded with all that wealth can buy, and starve with abundance because not understood, because education has made conventional rules that must be obeyed.

It has visited bodies not souls, and they must remain imprisoned like caged birds, or break through and be doomed to eternal scorn and neglect by the bigoted world, for daring to be free. Why not imprison the sunlight, or the winds, or the bounding ocean, as to cramp the soul in its inspirational yearnings after freedom. Parents who compel their daughters to unite with one who is mentally, physically or inspirationally deficient, because he has money or influence, commit a sin which can never be atoned. They have placed her in bondage, from which there is no escape, except

through infamy or death. The world has striven to become unnatural, to work against her laws, and thus destroy the harmony of her beautiful surroundings.

Light gives to our senses a beautiful world, filled with all that is necessary for the wants of man, and we grasp at such things as will satisfy the demands of nature; but, spiritually, we do not see the working or propelling power of these creations. Yet silently are these little, spiritual messengers doing their work, producing what we see and know. In the material life we only look at the result, not the cause and effect which produces them.

The world has accepted without giving thought how these were placed here. They have blindly listened to ancient records of its formations, and rested satisfied to be and die, running the risk of a hell or heaven—have remained in stupid ignorance of laws governing themselves, and trusted their soul's salvation to a few pampered priests, who had learned just enough to make them selfish and cunning, teaching them to withhold light and truth from the people; thus holding them in superstition and ignorance, knowing that this would hold them in their power.

I say to the world to-day, let the light shine that all may see. Sow broadcast the truth of God's universal love and brotherhood, not select an oldest brother to inherit all by entailment, but let all be given an equal opportunity to receive, and learn and act freely and socially, yet independently, like reasonable beings. A few advanced minds have worked nobly through these generations, and to such the world owes much. They have remained steadfast, as the needle to the pole, to such things as they conceived to be truths, and thus opened the way for others to walk.

They have driven back the bigotry and oppression of the past and present, and are now beginning to arouse thousands, ah! millions of minds, where only a handful dared express or think freely.

We see great efforts being made to overthrow this enlightened movement for liberty of speech or action, and the consequent result will be a revolution—a war of sects and creeds against light and reason, of tyranny and oppression against liberty and freedom.

The time is not far distant, when there will be a general uprising of the powers of church against free speech and spiritual light and freedom. They are secretly uniting to overthrow God's holy temple and sacrifice His children to their god of ambition, ignorance and lust. But they count without their host, for the true and universal God has opened a channel which bigotry had hedged up by as-

suming to take God's place, and selling liberties to those whose freedom was equal to their own; acting as agents of God to buy and sell souls, thereby enslaving bodies and souls to their lust, deceit and cruelty.

SECTION FIVE.

It is time the world was aroused to a sense of its wrongs and darkness; that spirits from a higher sphere opened a channel, whereby men might be awakened to the truth of reason and knowledge from a higher standpoint, when bigotry and oppression will loose its power, and love and charity look upon us all as children of one father.

The door has been opened wide, and children of spirit-life can visit and revisit the loved ones of earth, and reach out to them the helping hand of love and affection. Bars can no longer debar the sweet communion of souls; no dungeons or rocks can stay them; prison bars cannot bind them, for God liveth to-day in all his glory, and will lead them out to the astonishment of those who assume to oppress or oppose his inspirational teachings. They preach from a work of their own invention, and call it God's holy book; and yet neither follow its teachings or the one they call Savior God, but blindly destroy its most angelic beauty, and howl its terrors into the ears of those who are not allowed to read it understandingly, knowing it would expose their baseness—"God forgive them, for they know not what they do" as the Nazarene said upon the cross. Trials and temptations bring out the true elements of life. Had all enabling thoughts been burned without utterance, where would be the progress of art and science. Scientific minds being free and independent, have brought the world to its present standpoint; have revolutionized the world in scientific research and mechanism; the elevation of mind equalizing the social, moral and spiritual of men and women—equal on the same plane of development—giving to each all that they are capable of receiving in intellectual or moral capacity.

These conditions have not been understood and recognized, that woman should stand equal with man; he may have more of the grossness of physical nature, but she certainly has more of the spiritual or refined, to overcome his physical with; they are necessary to each other—she needing his stronger positive forces to strengthen her, and he more of her spiritual nature to elevate him to a higher and more refined condition. I would that all could come to a knowledge of the great truth of life as a principle, and God as the all-pervading spirit or intelligence, permeating

all matter developing the material into beautiful forms of growth, showing the wonderful in his works by variety of form and color, of taste and expression.

All recognize a divine hand or intelligence guiding them. "Wonderful are Thy works, oh! God," who giveth such abundance for all, freely and without cost; and yet his children are suffering for nourishment, both physically and spiritually, because man's power (not God's) has monopolized the earth, and grasped to themselves that which belongs to all. Who gave the right to buy and sell that which belongs to God? The same that pretend to hold the keys to heaven. They assume the power to enslave body and soul, whereby the elements of lower physical condition may manifest themselves by antagonistic force—the stronger oppressing the weak.

When liberal education and honest investigation can take the place of sectarian creeds and bigoted oppression, then will men begin to awaken to a new life, and new realization of God and his kingdom; his universal gifts to men as an intelligent and spiritual being, who is to act a part in the great drama of life; not a being to be suppressed by man, but an equal as far as he is capable of being educated or advanced.

Therefore man should be educated in the elevation of all his natural, moral and spiritual gifts. There is no darkness in God's great universe; no hidden laboratory where he manufactures or creates worlds or beings, but a beautiful and general revelation of all his works ever before the eyes of all, where they may study through his works, up to the divine principle—God. God works not in secret; has no secret machinations to show to a few, while the multitude are in ignorance of his beautiful law showing to man that all are recipients of his love and mercy.

When man becomes more spiritual, more refined by a true revelation, then will he understand the meaning of God and his universal laws, finding that happiness does not wholly depend upon his prosperity here in material matters, but that conditions of mind are the most beautiful when we have been enabled to do the most good to our brother man. To be spiritual and god-like, man is not required to become unnatural, but to be natural in all his gifts wrought into refinement. Many suppose, to be natural, man must be uncouth and rough with no refinement. It is not so; to be natural is to develop those powers that have been given up to a condition of usefulness and beauty—for every-one has something beautiful and

divine in his being. To draw it forth, it must be wrought upon with a gentle hand of encouragement, giving them confidence in themselves of some worth. The manner of education has been a distorting of the beautiful gifts of nature, and cruelly substituting unnatural and artificial for the real. Has not nature in her great laboratory produced the most beautiful and wonderful productions in every phase. Man may assist, but never out-do nature; he can never deviate without marring her harmonious conditions. The true education of the world has been retarded for the want of a more spiritual condition; man has attempted to stand alone, making himself independent of God, only recognizing him as a being to save him from some unknown suffering beyond the tomb. He has not recognized him in all his works or in his life as a part of his creation, and consequently has lived without God while in health and prosperity; therefore has only lived a half of life, (that being the physical) the spiritual having slumbered for want of recognition.

When the mind of man becomes darkened from doubt, it weaves a web of wretchedness, that obscures the beautiful light of God's face, giving a feeling of loneliness and desolation. When we can see an All-wise providence leading us on, can feel the touch of angel fingers, we shall look up again in confidence like children feeling safe from harm, as when held by a loving mother, and feel that we are being led by invisibles to the home of immortals. Of ourselves, we are nothing; but blending the divine power of love and harmony, we come *en rapport* with the God principle of all life. It is then that we are led to do those things which seem so mysterious to ourselves. We trust too much to our finite condition, and grow outwardly, groping after physical life; the intention or inspirational has not been understood, and consequently not cultivated. Since the advent of spiritualism, men begin to realize an inner being; one who has not been understood, but one that deserves our greatest attention, for upon that our happiness and progression depends; upon it the cultivation of spiritual gifts, which when received, are given to the world as recognized facts of a universal, spiritual intelligence. Spiritual science then opens the doors of thought to investigation, unlimited and free. No binding creeds to wall up the soul's best and truest emotions, but a free, full and trusting confidence in the future of God's love and goodness.

The world to day stands out to the enlightenment of free thought, every individual—though cramped by creeds—by

the outward form, is living in a world of thought within himself, which will eventually give birth to a greater fullness of truth and beauty.

Soon will the mind of man expand to an independent individuality—life is beginning to wear beauteous rays of light, and hues of color, which will blend, and mingle in their divine mission of harmony with God's eternal law.

I am not a teacher, but a practical worker; and am merely giving my experience of things as I see them. Much has to be overcome, to bring all minds to bear on these truths alike. I have had much thought upon this great subject since I left the form, and feel in duty bound to express myself to the world in as plain a garb as possible. We are all workers together, all are serving out a mission on earth, to be renewed in a sphere or locality suited to their condition, and will rise ultimately, to unite at the opening of a new and beautiful region, from which translations are no more made; by which they revisit their earthly abodes in form, but an electric chain of light irradiates those whom they wish to control. Influences from Deity are on the same principle, and all life is given through this radius.

Language of these spheres are emanations of electrical light, which sparkle and illuminate the spirits, making them look like seraphs or Gods of light.

I am seeking to discover the manner of controlling mortals, for to me it is as much of a problem as to those of earth—soon it will be made known, and then we will impart that knowledge to you, in its true and beautiful sense.

This power of control grows as naturally to conditions, as a plant or beings grow from birth to maturity; or intellect grows to understand the natural life.

The knowledge and fact of controlling a mortal by a spirit, is under scientific law, and when fully understood, will become as natural as to inhabit your earth.

The time will come when the inhabitants of earth will feel drawn towards the spirit-world, while yet in the form, as they are now attracted to different portions of the globe, and will as readily understand, what friend is near, and the friendly recognition will be as reciprocal.

Oh! how beautiful, how divine. Could I have known these things while guiding my army through those perilous storms during that dark struggle, how it would have gladdened the hearts of many a poor comrade who bravely fought for freedom of body while he felt the soul yet fainting in bondage; but inspiration for the cause led them on to victory, and those who fell before its close found a ransom on this other shore. But when they attempted to get back

to hail their comrades with joy, they found a barrier of superstition holding them in darkness which no power of their's could overcome, as the day had not dawned upon their spiritual understanding, and all minds were held by the fear of being drawn to an investigation as to the results of eternal destruction.

Enough has been said to cause this great truth of life to be admitted by those who have received demonstrations of such a character as to prove beyond a doubt that spiritual matter does control mortals, and that intelligence does exist representing different conditions, and blending with man's thoughts, and controlling him while yet in the form, is also manifest by thousands of instances, daily growing more and more clear and numerous every hour. Why should a spirit wish to deceive? What benefit could they derive from such a course?

If we cannot trust God to guide us in this when we earnestly ask for truth, what can we rely upon in any creed; for are they not all as liable to be deceived by the records of the past? If God shows not himself to-day through his angels or spirits as of old, can we believe that he ever did; must we not reason that designing man gave the history called the Bible to man for the purpose of holding power over those they wished to rule?

If God did come then in the angel or spirit form, and talk and walk with men, can he not now, and would not His revelation be greater to man at this day, than those rusty records, even if they contained nothing but the truth? If the truth is there, it certainly lives to-day as well as in ancient times. There has been no separation of Heaven from earth since Bible record, and we have not heard but that the good go straight to heaven to-day as they did of old, and in the same manner through the dissolution of the flesh. Men are born into the material life and pass into the spiritual the same as in the Bible times. Then, why should God withhold His spiritual communications through spirits or angels unto men in these days; and decline to give the same gifts that were promised to us in Bible times. Why give to one generation the key to the kingdom of heaven, that men in all succeeding generations must be subject unto them for their knowledge of God and the future life. I know that heaven as it is called, or spiritual life, has greater divine knowledge to impart than has ever been received, and if men would read the Bible understandingly, like any other book, receiving the consistencies, and laying aside the absurdities, they would reach the beautiful truths illustrated therein, and repel the

exaggerated accounts given as they do anything else written that does not blend with truth and reason.

If men would have more charity for their brother-man, they would not have so many select passages laid by for their brothers. Seeing the mote in his brother's eye, he has a place fixed for him and a scripture text adapted to his case. Looking for motes we are apt to forget the beams that hold us down.

Elevation of one's self from self is the surest religion to do right. Let every man make it a business to learn himself, and he will learn to know God, for God lives within every one. By seeking the true, the good, the beautiful in our brother man, we draw out the same in our own soul or interior conscience.

When men seek to destroy all the nobleness in man's nature, and compel him to believe that he was born in sin, conceived in iniquity, you have dethroned his God-principle, and placed him a convict upon the plane of condemnation, to walk the earth a criminal before his God and men; causing him to feel that he is doomed and can do no worse than find a hell at last if he does his utmost here to enjoy himself at the expense of the world. Feeling the conflict of injustice, doubt and despair, he knows he must go through a trying ordeal to his pride, and perhaps not succeed in his object of heaven. Thousands, yea, millions of noble souls have become desperate and committed sins from which their own pure souls revolted, and would never have been led to do had they been encouraged and uplifted by education, teaching that they were children of the author of all existence, with the same divine attributes to cultivate and enlarge; and in so doing, would be unfolding in this world a beautiful book of life, that would lead them through a labyrinth of all progression; that the great luminary of life was radiating through them as through all men; that no one held the key of life, but that each and all were capable of unlocking its treasures as fast as they were capable of comprehending. Enlarge the fields of knowledge by giving all an opportunity of general information. Withhold from none the book of life, the opening scene of interior light or life which emanates from ourselves and surrounds us, blending with all the attributes of nature and of God, the principle of all life permeating all things. The beautiful workmanship of His divine hand is upon all things both material and spiritual; the more we recognize it, the more we shall become reconciled to God and his beautiful creations. Everything becomes a living witness in the great arcana of nature; everything is a link binding

the visible to the invisible. No one thing is isolated in the great architectural structures of worlds and spheres—all things form a part of the wonderful to man in God's great universe. Grains of sand unite to form mountains, drops of water to form rivers, lakes and oceans; so worlds are formed little by little. Worlds grow as plants, live and breathe as man; it is one life in different forms whether it be worlds, man, animals or vegetables. This great law must be understood in order to revolutionize the world and bring men to a conception of the great principle, God.

We teach the salvation of all men—no losing process, no place where the bottom falls out and carries with it the many, while a few are saved by a mysterious tie.

If one be saved, all are saved; they may be scattered, but they will find their place, their sphere of action, as readily as a child is drawn to its nourishment of life. If plants know how to grow, why not men.

If it is not knowledge, then, it is attraction of force which draws them upward; so with man, if he have not knowledge, then the law of attraction will draw him to his own. If the warmth and genial sunshine could enter those cold walls of brick and stone, and thaw out the frozen mummies and memories within, and cause them to shed abroad a more enlivening loving impulse of brotherhood, how beautiful, how fresh would life be divested of all oppression and fear—animated with joy and thanksgiving to the great and universal giver to mankind of all things.

There is a day coming, and it will come sooner than men think of to-day, when liberation of souls will give an impetus to life, which will thaw the frozen blood, causing it to warm up the sympathies of humanity; giving love and trusting confidence, where now is only hatred and distrust.

My work is nearly done for this volume, as my dear mother wishes to say something in behalf of woman.*

She has waited patiently, and now I shall control but a short time longer for this volume. My dear mother has led me in my beautiful home as of old; not cramping my ideas, but blessing with soul communion, to lead me up to a higher knowledge of truth. Mother, show great your mission! It never ceases to sustain us through the labyrinthian ages. We shall come again to give of the home where angels dwell, and blend, as far as in our power, to that of earth. We must awaken man out of his sleep of death, and arouse him to a sense of life—that true life, which it is necessary to live to become at once a free inhabitant of our spiritual sphere.

* Mary Washington's *Experiences in Spirit Spheres*, was not written until 1876. They will be published in due time.

Thoughtfully I have written what to me are facts; holding the medium in a semi-trance state; giving, what, to her had no meaning at the time, but became interesting as she read after writing. I claim the privilege of giving my testimony in favor of this much abused religion, for, to me, it is the only true religion when spirit can predominate over matter, and high spiritual intelligence can control mortals to give their own thoughts as they find them, to the world. If you believe a part, you must believe the whole. If the Bible has truths, and angels and spirits spoke to man, then they certainly do now. We are called spirit—but we are matter refined—but material still; but not to your physical eye. The long dark period of man's existence is passing away, and the morning of a new resurrection is taking its place, when all eyes shall be made to see God in his works, and every tree and flower shall unite to praise him, the universal Father. May this work be properly treated; for it is a gift I have long desired to give the world, not for its scientific merits, but to express my own thoughts and investigations in my own way—plain and unvarnished. When I come again I shall give more from my spirit-home. Until then, I will bid you a short good bye.

May all good angels attend you through this life's journey.

Yours Fraternally.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

What is life? What is death? One is the bud, the other the blossom—eternity the ripe fruit. Why then try to retain the bud; do we not all look forward to the harvest as the acme of all our hopes—but as the tree is, so shall the bud, blossom and fruit be. Look then to the tree; live your best lives; give nothing to the swine; make every moment a gem to shine in the crown awaiting for you. Bring your best thoughts to bear on that which is set before you—doing each day's duty grandly—not with weak hands and hanging heads, as though bound for the felon's death. So act and live, that when called from this stage of action, each may come bearing a full sheaf of yellow grain, emblematic of a bountiful life and a glorious resurrection.

Yours, in the faith,

July 24th, 1878.

THOMAS PAINE.

REYNOLDS.



COMMUNICATIONS.

DEAR BROTHER THOMAS :

We are all here to give you greeting. It has been said "When two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be also." Where you or any of our dear friends meet together in the name and for the sake of truth and light, knowledge and love, then will we—some of your loved ones from the realms of peace and joy—be with you, giving words of cheer to lighten and brighten your pathway, not through the valley and shadow of death, but through life.

May God, the great permeating Spirit of Love, throw his mantle of peace, joy, charity and good-will to all men around you, and may you use the blessing for the highest good of mankind.

ELIZA.*

April 2, 1875. KERNS.

*A sister who passed on at four years of age, in 1828.

My dear friend Clarke: How much I wish to take you by the hand and bless you, and to talk over the many blessed things that have risen in your earthly home. I feel a great desire to communicate with those who still feel that we live and have a being. It is such a pleasure to be remembered, and feel that thoughts still come to us laden with happy recollections. It comes like a balm to our souls, and fills us with renewed life. But when we go to our loved ones who answer back with a knell of darkness and doubt, it fills us with sorrow to be thus repelled. Oh! what a weight will be lifted, when the world has become awakened to the true knowledge of life beyond the grave, with a recognition of our presence and love. Then will the millenium come, and not until then. How many times I come and walk over the old places, and see old friends who used to be so happy to see and meet me, but who know me not though I am with them.

But with you it is a glorious treat; for though you see me not, yet you know and recognize me in spirit. I am very happy to see you at your present work. Our loved Washington has just left in his heavenly beauty so genial and so pleasant. Your work is telling and will make itself known upon the minds of the people. There will be a wondrous change in Oakland in the next few years, by which many will be convinced of the truth of this grand knowledge; the greatest light that has ever been given to the world. Now, dear brother, I must go, blessing you and yours with love to all.

From your old friend,

2288

HENRY DURANT.

May 16, 1878. HENDER.

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